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Friday, January 13, 2023
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER

When internet sleuths uncovered secret romances from social media

These days it seems that celebrities don't just have the paparazzi to worry about when they have fans lurking around at every turn. Most of Bollywood's hot new couples today have been uncovered thanks to fans, who caught them on camera and shared it online for all to see. Here are 5 times the internet sleuths uncovered secret celebrity romances. —**ETimes**

Rashmika and Vijay Deverakonda

Rashmika and Vijay can play mum all they want, but fans seem convinced that the two are indeed an item. After rumours swirled about the couple ringing in the New Year together, Rashmika's new LIVE session video with fans went viral after many claimed that they overheard Deverakonda's voice in the background.

Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya

While most other celebrity couples on this list were spotted out on dinner dates and holidays, Janhvi and rumoured beau Shikhar were seen visiting a temple in south India. The couple, who sparked rumours of a rekindled romance in October, was spotted visiting the Tirupati Temple in Tirupati. Shortly after the temple visit, the two even headed out on a romantic trip to the Maldives together.

Hrithik Roshan and Saba Azad

Long before Hrithik Roshan went public with his romance with Saba Azad, the hunk was caught on camera by a fan. A viral Instagram video saw Hrithik and Saba indulging in cute PDA as they shared a meal at a restaurant in Mumbai. Shortly after the video took the internet by storm, the lovebirds went public with their relationship and have even been spotted heading out on double dates with Hrithik's ex-wife, Sussanne Khan.

Tamannaah and Vijay Varma

Fans of Tamannaah and Vijay Varma went into a tizzy when photos and videos of the two kissing at a New Year bash in Goa went viral. Netizens were convinced that the two actors are now an item after a video saw the two cosying up, hugging and kissing each other as they danced the night away. Although their faces weren't visible, other photos proved that the two were partying at the restaurant that night and were in the same clothes as the people in the clip.

Sara Ali Khan and Shubman Gill

Actress Sara Ali Khan's love life became a hot topic of discussion after she was spotted out on a dinner date with cricketer Shubman Gill. The rumoured lovers were spotted by a fan who shared a video of them on TikTok. While neither of the two confirmed the rumoured romance, they were later spotted leaving a Delhi hotel together and even caught a flight to Mumbai.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Gripping puzzle

Most of us are familiar with the puzzle Sudoku. Now, a movie with title – Sudoku – will go on the floors shortly. Its muhurat function was held at Sri Durga Matha Temple recently.

Bhargav and Kundana Reddy are the lead pair in this movie. It will be shot in Bengaluru, Kundapura, Madikeri, Kolar and other locations for 25 to 30 days.

"It is my seventh movie in Kannada. In this movie, I play a detective. I underwent training under a stunt master and am reading detective novels and watching movies to know about their body language," said Bhargav. Director Lokesh B told BM Sudoku is his fourth movie in Kannada. "Sudoku is a suspense thriller. The movie begins with a child character," said Lokesh. He said the movie revolves around a murder mystery and a detective. "I am sure the movie will keep the audiences on the edge of their seats."

Only love

Arrangements are on to release the movie Ondu Volle Love Story shortly. This movie has good wishes from Puneeth Rajkumar, Shivarajkumar, Sudeep and Ramesh Aravind. In July 2021, Puneeth Rajkumar was chief guest at a function to launch the title and poster of this film directed by Praveen Suthar. Bengaluru boy Ashwin debuts as a hero with this movie. Ashwin who has been trying his luck in Sandalwood since 2007 has now realised his long-cherished dream.

"I am from BTM Layout. I came to Gandhinagar, the hub of Kannada film industry, to become a hero but did not get a chance till 2021. In between I got an opportunity to act in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada TV serials. I have written the script and screenplay for this movie," said Ashwin. He said he had basic training in acting at Adarsha Film Institute. "Writing short stories has been my passion since my high school days. This movie's story is of a girl and boy meet in an unexpected situation. How they fall in love and realise the value of love is what this film is about," said Ashwin. Dhanushree plays the female lead.

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City police personnel on duty in southeast division are now using body-worn cameras during patrolling

A COP'S EYE VIEW

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

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Following recent allegations of extortion and misbehaviour against police personnel, Bengaluru city police have introduced body-worn cameras for police personnel on duty. The southeast division of the city is the first area where police personnel are using body-worn cameras during patrolling.

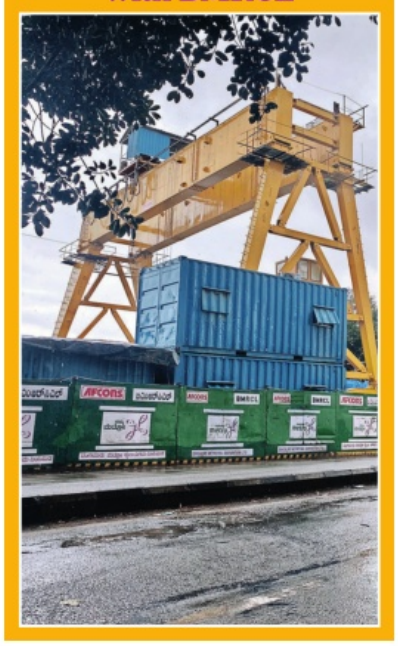
"We have started using body-worn cameras during night patrolling. As of now, we have been given 50 body cameras by the commissioner of police. This helps to monitor the police personnel on duty and their surrounding areas. All our night time patrolling makes use of these 50 cameras. On January 11, we chased and caught an accused; it was possible to catch him

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

CITY / PAGE 6

Infra in the red

Why all is not well with BMRCL



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2 THINGS TO DO

01 Get creative

National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru presents a landscape painting workshop in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition Reflections: Man and Nature in the paintings of Bireswar Sen (1897 - 1974) on Sunday. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art; When: January 15, 12 pm – 3 pm Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ejMM6aeHS_iJIHcbJO4kT5GHkMo3w5fCH0sYY27hKek/viewform?edit_requested=true**

02 Magic of reading

The Atta Galatta Book club is back! Join in as they kick off the first meeting of the year. Bring the books, poems, stories that got you through the pandemic, and share the magic with fellow readers and friends. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 14, 3 PM Contact: 9632510126**

World for birds

The Centre for Environment and Sustainability at Kristu Jayanti College organised "Home and Food for Birds" in commemoration of National Birds Day with Ms P Bineesha, Executive Director, International Institute of Waste Management and Board Member of the Technology Development Board, Ministry of Science and Technology, GOI. The event was aimed to create awareness on the plight of birds and to initiate the necessary changes to build a more sustainable relationship with birds. Dr Fr Augustine George, Principal, Kristu Jayanti College spoke on the various initiatives taken by the college including cocopeat production, terrace gardening and home for birds, in protecting the environment, saving biodiversity and sustainable development.

Students helping save lives, one cell at a time

Over 300 students and teaching faculty of Acharya Institute of Technology register for blood stem cell donor campaign

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over 300 members of Acharya Institute of Technology (AIT), including NSS students, and professors, registered themselves as potential lifesavers at a blood stem cell donor registration drive organised at the AIT.

For the next two years, DKMS BMST Foundation India and Acharya Institute of Technology will work to help blood cancer patients by registering more potential stem cell donors and raising awareness about the cause.

Monica HN, an MBA student of AIT, told Bangalore Mirror over the phone that she did not know much about donating stem cells until she attended an orientation programme organised at the AIT. "My friend's mother died of cancer because they did not know about transplantation of blood stem cells. Another friend's mother recovered from cancer because it was at an initial stage. I am very happy to register," said Monica.

Patrick Paul, CEO, DKMS BMST Foundation India, said that often, a blood stem cell transplant from a matching stem cell donor is the only chance at survival for blood cancer and blood disorders such as thalassemia and aplastic anaemia patients.

"A successful blood stem cell transplant needs a perfect HLA tissue match. Every year over one lakh people are diagnosed with such life-threatening diseases in India and with the increasing burden, more and more Indian patients are looking for matching stem cell donors. We aim to raise awareness about blood stem cell donation through this association with AIT. We hope that the student community will help save more lives," said Paul.

AIT Principal Dr Rajath Hegde MM said that the present younger generation have huge potential to empower and encourage others to contribute to a cause. "After all, saving a life is as important as giving a new life. We will continue to help raise awareness among the public," he said.

The blood cancer awareness programme and donor registration drive were organised by Dr Juin Choudhury, HOD-MBA and coordinated by Dr Nijaguna G, Prof Monica M, Assistant Professor, Dr Prashanth KP, NSS officer, Prof Channakeshava and Dr Sanman, NSS Coordinators.

The team of volunteers were identified and trained to drive the students to attend the programme.

To register:
Step 1: Visit the site, fill up an online form and you will receive a DIY swab kit at home.
Step 2: Once you receive the swab kit, fill out the consent form and take a tissue sample from the inside of your cheeks with 3 cotton swabs provided in the kit.
Step 3: Return the swab sample in the pre-paid envelope provided.
DKMS laboratory will then analyse your tissue type and your details will be available in the global search for blood stem cell donors. If you do come up as a suitable donor, DKMS-BMST will get in touch with you.
Citizens between 18-55 can register at:
dkms-bmst.org/register

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Donating stem cells can go a long way in saving lives, say experts

Big cat on the prowl, BU issues advisory

The Bangalore University has issued an advisory asking students and staff to be extra careful while venturing out on the campus. This comes after news of a leopard being spotted near the campus.

BU Registrar N Mahesh Babu said, "We have read about a leopard spotting in the media. Hence, I have asked all the students, especially those staying in hostels along with teaching and non-teaching staff members to be extra careful while venturing out. As the campus is huge, they need to restrict walking out in the evenings. In case of any leopard sightings or pugmarks, then the university should be immediately alerted. We are coordinating with the forest staff to rescue the big cat at the earliest."

A PG student added that the campus is so huge that there are chances of leopards hiding. Many areas of the campus are quite dark due to poor lighting. The news is definitely shocking as one needs to be extremely careful. Environmentalists say that with Bengaluru turning into an urban jungle and the nearby jungles being encroached, the sightings of wild animals are increasing.

Wildlife scientist Sanjay Gubbi had written to CM earlier stating that 50 per cent of the human-leopard conflict incidents occur in five districts (Ramanagara, Tumkur, Mandya, Mysuru and Hassan). However, these days the number of conflict incidents is also on the rise in Ballari, Koppal and Kolar districts.

"Of the 27,418 revenue villages in Karnataka, there is an occurrence of human-leopard conflict in over 700 villages and is increasing by the day. Outside protected areas such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, poaching of leopards' natural prey such as chital, sambar, four-horned antelope, barking deer, black-naped hare, jungle fowl and others has increased," he said.

According to him, leopards shift their diet to domestic animals such as sheep and goats due to decreased natural prey outside protected areas. Increased use of CCTV and the recording of leopards in CCTVs are leading to the assumption that there is an increased occurrence of leopards. Similarly, the circulation of fake information over social media is also creating fear among people. The impact of human-leopard conflict is very high on economically underprivileged communities. Similarly, conflict also has a big negative impact on leopards. The government must take necessary steps to reduce conflict," he added.

Gubbi has asked the State Government to start a minimum one-week training on human-wildlife conflict for Forest Watcher, Forest Guard, Deputy Range Forest Officer, and Range Forest Officer training schools.

While elephants have been spotted in east Bengaluru, another leopard sighting is being reported by residents of west Bengaluru. Meanwhile, wild elephants have been spotted near Anekal outskirts recently. **— BMB**

Pet shops of B'luru: It's a horror story

Surprise raids on pet shops across Bengaluru reveal animal cruelty, malnutrition & unhygienic conditions

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

The majority of the 1,344 animals that were rescued in the surprise inspection and raid on pet shops across the city on Wednesday are ailing and suffering from malnutrition.

According to the officials from Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS) department and rescue centres in the city, most of the animals are showing signs of various health issues.

"We have taken in 197 rescued pigeons and doves, and over 65 per cent of them have diseases. They have skin issues, diarrhoea, loss of feathers, avitaminosis, and pustules on the feet. We will be examining them thoroughly to ascertain the kind of treatment each bird requires," said Dr Nawaz Shariff, chief veterinarian, People for Animals (PFA), one of the rescue centres that has sheltered some of the animals after the raid.

In a joint action taken by the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board (KAWB), Bengaluru City Police, BBMP, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, and animal welfare activists, illegal pet shops were raided.

"We had issued warnings to the pet shop owners in the past and notices were issued to 44 shops. Of these, 24 of them applied for a license and obtained the same. The other 20 have been issued notices for closure," informed Dr GM Nagraj, deputy director, AH&VS.

> **"The animals were kept in unclean, overcrowded cages without access to food, water and their injuries untreated**
> – an official, Karnataka Animal Welfare Board

Out of 1,334 animals that were rescued, 823 are exotic animals such as African parrots (94), partridges (12), love birds (302), finches (389), turkeys (1), cockatiels (21), African crows (3), red-eared slider (1), and 521 are domestic animals including pigeons/doves (196), rabbits (108), ducks (11), hamsters (57), hens (103), dogs (34), cats (12).

While most of the exotic birds have been sheltered at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), the remaining were taken in by Charlie's Animal Rescue Center and ASRA.

Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) has opened its gates for the hens and PFA has taken in all the pigeons and doves. The rest of the rescued domestic animals have been sheltered by CARE. "We have taken in 54 birds including African parrots, finches, and African crows. While they appear healthy, we have isolated them and will soon conduct a medical examination. They are currently under veterinary care," said Sunil Panwar, director, BBP.

The hush-hush operation involved seven separate teams of officials that inspected multiple locations in the city where animals are kept and sold. The teams targeted ten shops in various locations across the city and found that they violated sections 11 and 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

"The animals were kept in overcrowded and unclean cages with un-weaned puppies for sale. They were kept without access to food or water, and their injuries and infections were not attended to as well. Moreover, many of the pet shops were found to be operating without any license. The animals that needed treatment and were kept in cruel conditions were rescued and will be kept under the custody of facilities recognised by the law," said an official from KAWB.

Harassed, for helping kids with special needs

An FIR has been filed against an individual for allegedly harassing the Akshadhaa Foundation, an NGO helping children with special needs.

According to Anirban Dutta, Trustee, Akshadhaa Foundation, the foundation has a 20-seater bus which ferries the children.

The bus driver was being pestered by the people in the area for stopping the bus for too long while picking and dropping off the children.

He said, "When they get down at the school, they take some time as they are not like regular kids. So, the caregivers have to be a little careful. A similar situation occurs when they board the bus. The people complain that the van has stopped for too long."

He added that despite explaining to them about the Disability Act, 2016, which states that specific areas have to be demarcated for them, they do not understand. One of them even manhandled the driver and there was a bit of a scuffle, he said.

After the incident, they had to visit the police station to file a complaint. He added that these incidents dampen the morale of the teachers.

He added that previously, one of the local residents went to the BBMP office and filed an eviction order against them for which they had to go to court. "The court then directed us to the State Commissioner for persons with disability who issued a proper directive to the BBMP Commissioner stating that they should support the institution by giving them space where they can operate from."

Moreover, according to the Disability Act, five per cent of the land area and civic institutions has to be allocated for the people with disabilities. This has been going on for more than three years, he said. – **Shreyashi Mukherjee**

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personal

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I, Jyothi Rani D/o H.K. Talukdar R/o No.9, 3rd Cross, Shamanna Garden, Adugodi Post Office, B'lore - 56030 have changed my name to Jyothi Rani Talukdar for all purposes.

I, Pavithra Prakash, W/o G.K. Prakash, aged about 35 years, R/a No.13, Muniswamy Naidu Layout, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061. i have changed my name from Pavitra Prakash to PAVITHRA PRAKASH. Vide affidavit Date on : 06-01-2023. Sworn before Notary : B. Prasanna

I, KOMALA ANANDAVALLI THIAGARAJAN, W/o. S. Sairam, Residing at No. 207, 2nd B Cross Road, East of NGEF Layout, Kasturi Nagar, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to KOMALA SAIRAM vide affidavit dated 11.01.2023 sworn before notary Y.R Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

I, Ayush Hrishikesh Mishra, R/at Principal Bungalow, Union Bank of India Staff College, Kalkere Post, Bangalore declare that my name Ayush Hrishikesh Mishra is entered in all documents, whereas in Passport my name is entered as Ayush Mishra. I, further declare. that both belongs to me, hence this affidavit dt. 10.01.2023 sworn before Notary Muniswamy, Bangalore

I, J Sukesh Nayak S/o Suresh nayak J , R/o #97, Lakshmi Ramanivasa, vaishnavi nagar, Near Srinivasa theatre, kumarswamy layout, J P Nagar post , Bangalore south, Bangalore - 560078 Have Changed My Name To SUKESH NAYAK for all future purposes.

I Devaki Sudarshan Pawar D/O, Byrojirao Sudarshan R/o 14/86, 15th C Cross, 8th Main, Muthyalnagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560054. Have changed my name to Nithanya Pawar for all purposes.

I, Sunita Andanappa Padesur W/o Andanappa Padesur have changed my name to Sunita Padesur vide affidavit dated 28/12/2022 Sworn before notary S.R. Ravikumar, Bangalore

I Manu Thlakutur Joseph, R/o #17/20 2nd Cross, Behind Jyothi School, HRBR Layout, 3rd Block, Blr-84 have changed my name to Manu Joseph

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K'taka govt allows CBI to attach mining baron's excess property

The Karnataka government on Thursday authorised the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to attach 'excess properties' belonging to former minister and mining baron G Janardhana Reddy, his wife and companies owned by him.

The order came after the High Court of Karnataka granted the state government two days on January 10 to give information on the delay in granting permission to the CBI to attach Reddy's properties.

The court had asked the government why it had not given the go-ahead to attach the properties worth Rs 19 crore while it had earlier sanctioned the attachment of Rs 64 crore assets.

The government order on Thursday referred to the request made by the Superintendent of Police of the CBI to issue authorisation to the 'Pairavi officer/ Holding Investigation Officer' to file an application before the special court for CBI cases in Bengaluru for the attachment of 'scheduled excess properties' of Reddy.

"The Pairavi officer/Holding Investigation Officer is hereby authorised to file an application before the special court for CBI cases, Bengaluru city for the attachment of scheduled excess properties of G Janardhana Reddy in his name as well as in the name of his wife and his companies and also other properties as shown in the schedule of properties as shown in the schedule of the properties that is submitted along with the letter dated August 30, 2022," the order said. **PTI**

Denied free tea, smokes, gang unleashes violence

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A gang of rowdies attacked a shop-owner and his wife and children for not giving them cigarettes and tea.

The shop owner, Shivakumar, is said to have refused to give them tea and cigarettes as they did not want to pay for it. Following that the accused started hitting the shop owner. The thugs also attacked the wife and children who came running after hearing Shivakumar's screams.

The attack was caught on CCTV camera and a complaint against the accused has been lodged in Kengeri police station.

ED arrests builder

The Enforcement Directorate Bengaluru has nabbed Mahesh B Ojha, head of Karan Group Builders and Developers, Mumbai on January 10. The person has been arrested under the provisions of PMLA, 2002, in a fraud and cheating case involving an amount of more than Rs.500 crore and PMLA Special Court has granted 10-days ED custody of the accused.

Gang of thieves arrested

The City Market police arrested a gang of notorious thieves who are accused of stealing bikes and jewellery.

According to the police, the gang used to steal whatever they could and spent all their money in night clubs.

The accused have been identified as Mohammad Alim, Rizwan Khan, Wasim Ahmed, Mohammad Faras and Tabrez.

"The accused were waiting in the City Market area to target gullible victims. But they were caught by the police. The accused had a handgun with them as well. They are being interrogated," said a police official.

The accused used to steal bikes from City Market, Cottonpet and DJ Halli. They also used to get on buses as passengers and rob mobile phones from the other passengers. City Market police have seized six bikes and eight mobile phones from the accused.

CRIME FILES

Cut to the chase

The police chased a kidnapper in a cinematic fashion on Wednesday night and nabbed him.

The footage of the arrest was caught on camera. According to the police, Adugodi police station's inspector Manjunath was successful in catching the kidnapper after making a deadly chase.

According to the police, a case was registered at Madiwala police station of kidnapping. The victim's family had complained that even after giving money to the accused, he was not releasing the victim.

Woman found dead

A woman is said to have died by suicide in Deepanjali Nagar. Police said the parents of the woman, Zaida, a 22-year-old, have alleged that her husband murdered her. Zaida and Saif Ali were married three years ago.

A case has been registered against Saif Ali at the Byatarayanapura police station and he is being interrogated.

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Infra in trouble

Lost faith in BMRCL?

Sinkhole-related accident in Brigade Road adds to incidents that are making public question metro work

This is the sinkhole that appeared on Brigade Road, leading to a biker meeting with an accident

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Consecutive incidents around the metro have led to a setback in public trust towards Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). In a recent incident, a massive sinkhole appeared in the middle of Brigade Road, causing a biker to fall. However, BMRCL stated the incident cannot be associated with metro tunnelling work.

Around 12:15 pm on Thursday, a sinkhole (3 m diameter) appeared, catching the passer-by unaware. The biker was immediately transferred to Fortis hospital in Richmond Town and luckily escaped with minor injuries.

A portion of Brigade Road was cordoned off immediately, leading to traffic jams in Wood Street and General KS Thimayya Road. BMRCL filled the sinkhole with concrete as a stop-gap. The corporation will perform studies to identify how it happened.

A senior traffic official said that the road will be opened for light motor vehicle traffic immediately after filling the sinkhole. There is likely to be a bar on heavy motor vehicles.

“Due to the underground tunnelling, a portion of the road has caved in up to 3 m in diameter. BMRCL is filling it with concrete”

– BBMP official

BMRCL ‘unclear’ about cause

Executive Director of UG and Airport Line, Siddananada Reddy, said that they are unclear on what led to the sinkhole. “Tunneling is ongoing from MG Road to Vellara station, and two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) have to pass through the stretch. One TBM reached Vellara junction 10 days back. Another is ongoing but passed the stretch five days ago and is 30 m from here. The TBM passed through complete rocky strata. There was roughly 4 m of rock above the tunnel. We have also completed secondary grouting to fill the remaining cavities.”

The dug-up tunnel is 30-35 feet from the road surface.

According to BMRCL officials, the caving of the road could be due to the opening of cavities while tunnelling. “While the TBM passes through, it cuts through granite rock and vibrates into the ground. If there are any old cavities or water in the above strata, it could get activated. We conducted all tests possible to discover such cavities. Once the concrete is filled, we will use the down-the-hole drilling machine to find loose strata around it.”

90% mixed strata in city

Noting that similar incidents didn’t happen during Delhi metro construction, BMRCL clarified that 99 per cent of tunnelling in Bengaluru is in mixed strata composed of weathered rocks and soil, while in Delhi Metro, 90 per cent is in alluvial soil.

Public losing faith in BMRCL?

“Due to the underground tunnelling work, a portion of the road has caved in up to 3 m in diameter. BMRCL is filling it with concrete,” said a senior BBMP official.

In October 2021, a 30-feet-wide sinkhole appeared on Tannery Road. This was due to a building being constructed on top of a closed well.

Two days back, an under-construction metro structure near HBR Layout fell onto a passing motorist family, killing a mother-son duo.

In a bid to regain public trust with ongoing metro construction, BMRCL MD Anjum Parwez said that they have removed three similar pillars from the stretch.

Rs 7K crore can’t end crater culture

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) spent a whopping Rs 7,000 crore over the last seven years to lay roads, and yet, most of them are not free of potholes.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, “Since 2016, BBMP has received grants of Rs 25,000 crore from the state government for various developmental works. We have used Rs 6,000 crore from this for Amruta Nagrottana work. Overall, Rs 7,000 crore has been spent on roads.”

Officials believe that potholes are ‘perennial’ in the city. According to Nath, Rs 18 crore has been spent in the current financial year to fill close to 40,000 potholes.

Of the Rs 18 crore, Rs 12 crore was spent at zonal levels and the remaining Rs 6 crore was spent by Centre for Research and Innovation (CERI). “I feel that we have not spent much on potholes as we had earmarked an amount of Rs 60 crore for filling them but have been able to manage the work with Rs 18 crore. In fact, during the previous financial years, we have spent close to Rs 40/50 crore for filling potholes and resurfacing roads,” said Nath.

He also said that the state government recently provided a grant of Rs 1,000 crore to fix roads which were dug up by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to supply water to 110 villages around Bengaluru. “More than 2,000 km of roads have been dug up by BWSSB around the city. We have got a grant of Rs 1,000 crore, which may not be enough, and we may have to request for more. Bengaluru has a network of 14,000 km where more than 6,000 km of roads have been dug up by various agencies for different purposes,” he added.

Although rapid roads have broken at a few places, BBMP is not ready to give up on the project yet. Nath said it was a pilot project where they have not spent any money and cannot draw conclusions based on one broken slab. The IISc has been asked to submit a report on the project. Based on the report, the agency will decide if the pilot project can be taken up on mass production levels. “The experts will give us guidance whether there is a requirement for technological improvement, adaptability, and financial viability,” Nath informed.

As there are no takers for the parking lot at Gandhinagar, BBMP has decided to request the Department of Urban Land Transport (DULT) to reduce the reserve amount so that there are more bidders participating.

“We have got three participants for the JC Nagar parking lot. We will soon choose one. There is a proposal to bring back sweeping machines in the city. Earlier, there were apprehensions over the cost and utility factor,” he said.

Potholes make it hard for commuters on a Bengaluru road

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.: S/RWP/E/47/2022-23 dated:10.01.2023

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in,** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN.** 1. **Tender No. :** 01221018A, **Short Description of Item :** Taper Ingate Sleeve, **Quantity** : 600 Nos., **Date of tender Closing/Opening** : 09.02.2023 at 14:00 Hrs. 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in.** 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers.

PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT./2022-23/108

‘It’ll be caught on camera’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

only due to the body cameras,” said deputy commissioner of police, south-east division, CK Baba.

The deputy commissioner added that there are no specific areas where police are using body-worn cameras: in fact, the cameras are being used in the entire jurisdiction.

“As of now 50 cameras are enough. If we feel there is a need for more cameras, I will request the department to provide them. The cameras can record continuously for 10 hours. With the help of these cameras, we will have a proper report of any incident. Moreover, this will prevent officers from abusing their authority and accepting bribes; the cameras will also aid in the detection of false allegations against officers as well,” Baba added.

The department monitors daily video recording of police personnel using the body-worn cameras. Through this, the DCP said, the police department aims to check allegations raised against the police personnel. Previously, the state government distributed similar cameras to city traffic police in response to various allegations of corruption against the personnel.

Meanwhile, residents in the city felt that this move will bring transparency in the system. Shashwat, a resident of Ejipura, said there is no point in having a body-worn camera if the police personnel can switch it off anytime.

“It is definitely a good decision to provide police personnel with body cameras. This will not only resolve the issue of bribery and harassment but also if there is an accident, and the police personnel are nearby, it can get recorded on camera. The only problem is there is no provision or law to make sure that policemen have to keep their cameras on all the time, especially while arresting a person,” he said.

“The initiative was introduced for the traffic cops a while ago but I have seen only one traffic cop with a camera; that too was turned off. So, to make sure that this initiative is a success, they need to ensure the personnel keep their cameras on every time they approach someone,” he added.

SIMULATING BEGINNINGS

Scientists study life origins by simulating cosmic evolution

Amino acids make up millions of proteins that drive the chemical gears of life, including essential bodily functions in animals. Because of amino acids' relationship to living things scientists are eager to understand the origins of these molecules. After all, amino acids may have helped spawn life on Earth after being delivered here about four billion years ago by pieces of asteroids or comets.

But if so, were amino acids produced inside asteroids or comets? Or did life's raw ingredients come intact from the interstellar molecular cloud of ice, gas, and dust that formed our solar system and countless others?

If amino acids formed in our solar system, then life could be unique here. But if they came from an interstellar cloud, these precursors to life could have spread to other solar systems as well.

Scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, sought to explore how amino acids and amines -- their chemical cousins -- may have formed by simulating a mini, cosmic evolution in the lab. The researchers made ice like those found in interstellar clouds, blasted them with radiation, and then exposed the leftover material, which included amines and amino acids, to water and heat to replicate the conditions they would have experienced inside asteroids.

"The important take-away is that the building blocks of life have a strong link not only to processes in the asteroid, but also to those of the parent interstellar cloud," said Danna Qasim, who worked on this experiment while she was a postdoctoral fellow at NASA Goddard from 2020 to 2022. Qasim now is a research scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio and lead author of a study published on January 9 in the journal ACS Earth and Space Chemistry.

For their study, Qasim and her colleagues made ice out of molecules that telescopes have commonly detected in interstellar clouds, such as water, methanol, carbon dioxide and ammonia. Then, using a Van de Graaff particle accelerator at Goddard, they zapped the ice with high-energy protons to mimic the cosmic radiation the ice would have experienced in a molecular cloud. The radiation process broke apart simple molecules. Those molecules recombined into more complex amines and amino acids, such as ethylamine and glycine. The amino acids were left in gooey residues.

"We expect that these residues from the interstellar cloud are transferred to the protoplanetary disk that creates a solar system, including asteroids," Qasim said.

Asteroid simulations came next. By submerging the residues in tubes of water and heating them to different temperatures and for varying durations, scientists replicated the conditions inside some asteroids billions of years ago, called 'aqueous alteration'. Later, they analysed the effects these warm, watery conditions had on the molecules.

They found that the types of amines and amino acids created in laboratory interstellar ices, and their proportions, stayed constant regardless of asteroid conditions. This implies that amines and amino acids can stay intact as they migrate from the interstellar cloud to an asteroid. But each molecule reacted differently to asteroid-like conditions depending on how much heat the researchers applied and for how long. Glycine levels doubled after seven days of asteroid simulations, for example, while ethylamine levels barely budged.

> "If amino acids formed in our solar system, life could be unique here, but if they came from an intestellar cloud, these precursors to life could have spread to others

Many other scientists have created interstellar ices and plied them with radiation. Like the Goddard team, they've also found that this process creates amines and amino acids. But the set of compounds produced in labs doesn't match the set detected in meteorites. Meteorites are pieces of asteroids and, perhaps, comets that scientists can find on Earth's surface and probe in the lab.

Qasim and her colleagues wanted to investigate this discrepancy, so they designed an experiment -- the first one to add asteroid simulations to the ice experiment. The process began with an idea by Christopher Materese, a Goddard research scientist who was principal investigator of this project. Materese wondered whether asteroid conditions were the missing link between lab-made interstellar ice and meteorite compositions.

"Laboratory experiments focused solely on ice irradiation are not fully capturing the reality of the chemistry experienced by these compounds," Materese said, adding, "So part of the goal of this work was to see if we can close that gap."

The research team has not yet closed the gap. They found that even after simulating asteroid conditions, the amines and amino acids they produced still didn't match those in meteorites.

This could be happening for a variety of reasons. One has to do with possible contamination. Because meteorites fall through Earth's atmosphere and spend some time on the surface before they're scooped up, it's possible that their chemical makeup changes and don't perfectly reflect the asteroids they came from. But scientists will be able to address this issue with pristine samples of asteroid Bennu, currently being ferried by NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft to Earth for a September 24, 2023, delivery to the surface. Scientists also will improve their ice experiments after NASA's James Webb Space Telescope returns detailed information about the types of ice that make up interstellar molecular clouds.

"We are not nearly at the end of this work yet, we still have more to do," Materese said. —ANI

Don't ignore constipation

1 I am experiencing a sense of incomplete bowel evacuation and spend too much time in the toilet due to unsuccessful defecation. What are the remedies?

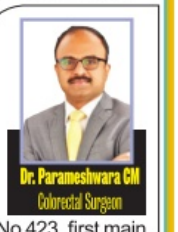
A sense of incomplete bowel evacuation and excessive time spent in the toilet could be signs of constipation. But, instead of talking to an expert, many resort to home remedies by taking fake medicines from quacks which can be harmful. I recommend that only an expert can diagnose whether it is a case of medical or surgical constipation. In case of medical constipation, medicines can be prescribed. But, in case of surgical constipation, one may have to undergo a surgery.

We have a lot of cases where patients complain of doing physical manipulations to overcome constipation which can be dangerous as well. We have seen women with previously normal deliveries (who had delivered big babies) or older women who had delivered more than four babies could suffer from the problem. During delivery, the rectum could also have been pulled down along with the uterus. Uterus, rectum and urinary bladder are in the pelvis. This could lead to pelvic organ descent. Women suffering from pelvic organ descent could experience incomplete feeling after passing stools. Some women complain of urinary symptoms. A few may suffer from an increase in frequency of urination; some may leak urine while sneezing or coughing. I would recommend an MRI scan for such cases. If it is a mild case, we can cure it with yoga and physiotherapy. In case of severe cases, surgery could be the only option.

2 I am a 45-year-old woman experiencing rectal bleeding, mucus in stools and unexplained weight loss. Sometimes, I have sudden and severe abdominal pain. What could be the reasons?

If you are suffering from the above issues, then you shouldn't neglect the symptoms. This case needs a thorough evaluation and I would recommend a colonoscopy which could give us the complete picture. These symptoms could be either signs of cancer or inflammatory bowel disease. So, I request you to consult a gastroenterologist at SMILEs hospital without fail. Never neglect bleeding, weight loss or any other pain in the abdomen.

–Prakash VL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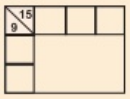
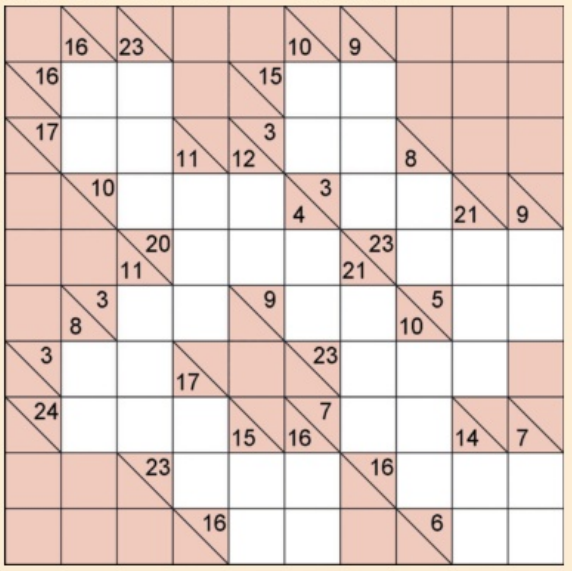
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

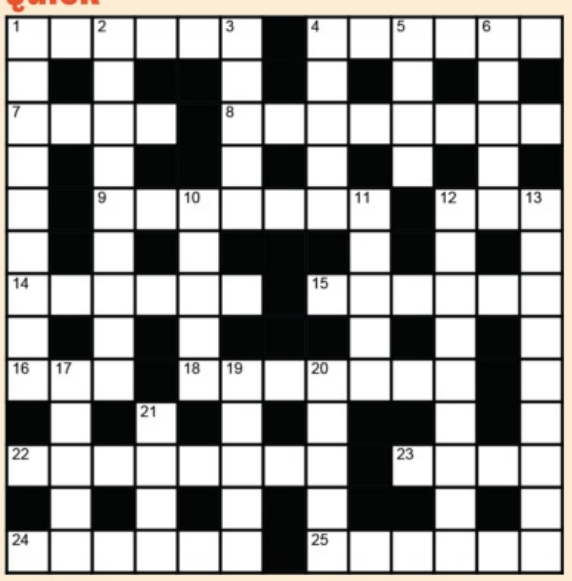


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Russian dog like a large greyhound with soft long hair (6)
4 Chinese building (6)
7 Good fortune (4)
8 It has 366 days (4,4)
9 Murdering (7)
12 Minstrel song (3)
14 Expresses or verbalizes (6)
15 Horrifies (6)
16 Grandmother (3)
18 Irregularity, deviating from the standard (7)
22 Scolds, admonishes (8)
23 South African currency (4)
24 Droops, hunches or slouches (6)
25 Stylish and chic? (6)

DOWN

1 Amusement park and recreation centre in Cubbon Park (3,6)
2 Period of economic decline (9)
3 Embed (5)
4 Clear; unadorned (5)
5 Spanish painter (4)
6 Bangladesh capital (5)
10 Sphere of action (5)
11 N Indian dynasty (A.D. 320 to 540) (5)
12 2012, 2016, etc (4,5)
13 Twenty four hours back? (9)
17 Watchful (5)
19 Mountain Ben ___ (5)
20 Songs, symphonies, etc (5)
21 Jason's craft (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS W

QTOL HJ O QPPW? O UEOIL QTKJP NHXLYPJ TONP IPNPX CPPI WHJVKNPXPW

Linemaro

You are so weird, it's great

Mindchow

Don't worry about death. You were dead for billions of years before you were born

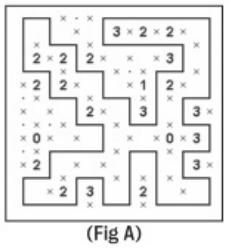
Joke of the day

How do you know you are getting fat? When your wife gives you a certificate for "Nutritional Overachiever"

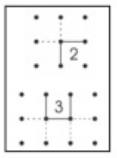
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



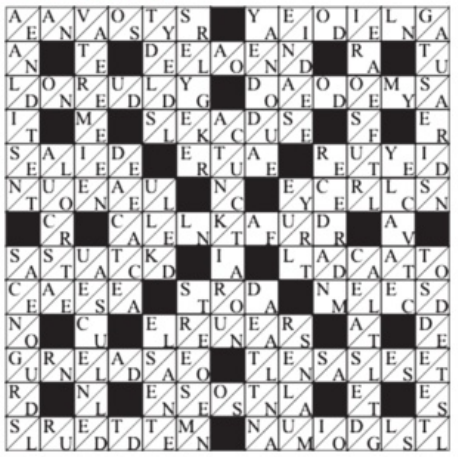
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

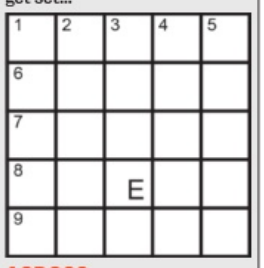
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

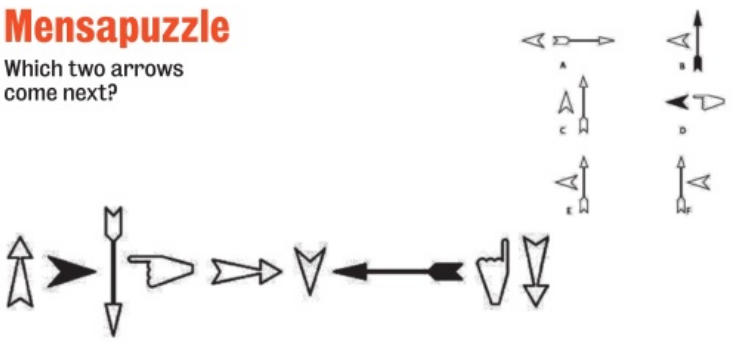
1 Grade; 6 A alum;
7 In MIB; 8 Suave;
9 Pryer

DOWN

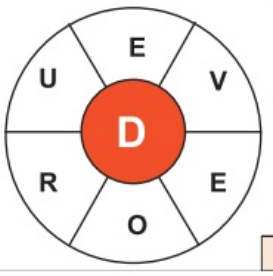
1 Up urn (3-2); 2 Evil a;
3 A germ; 4 Bream;
5 Id Say

Mensapuzzle

Which two arrows come next?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	8	5					
	2				7		5	4
	7		6					9
		4	3			2		
2			1		4			7
		3			8	9		
8					6		9	
1	9		8				2	
					3	8	6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

2 2 5 9

Medium = 15

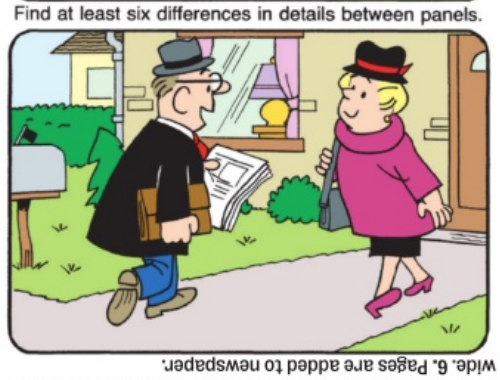
1 3 5 7

Hard = 56

2 4 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



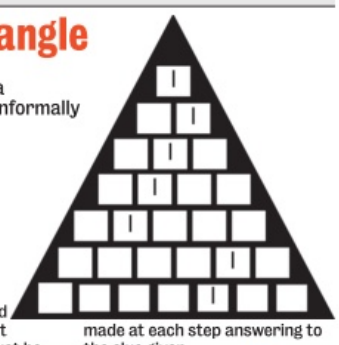
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Door is larger. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Mailbox is taller. 5. House in distance is not as wide. 6. Pages are added to newspaper.

Riddler

Which is the odd one out: strikeout, fly out, tag out, stall out?

Alpha triangle

1 Pronoun
2 Do Re Me Fa So La
3 Mind for money, informally
4 Location
5 Nips
6 'Amen!'
7 Corpulency



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

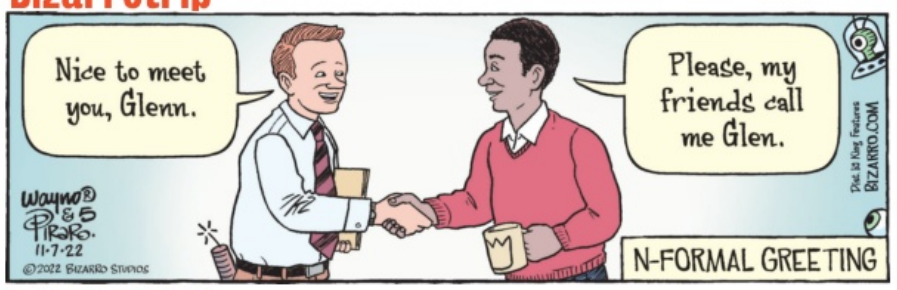
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

HEAR ANY BUFFALO COMING, REDEYE?
NOPE
HOW ABOUT NOW?
10-27
NOT A SOUND!
AFTER YOU GET HIM ALL BANDAGED UP, YOU'D BETTER CHECK HIS EARS

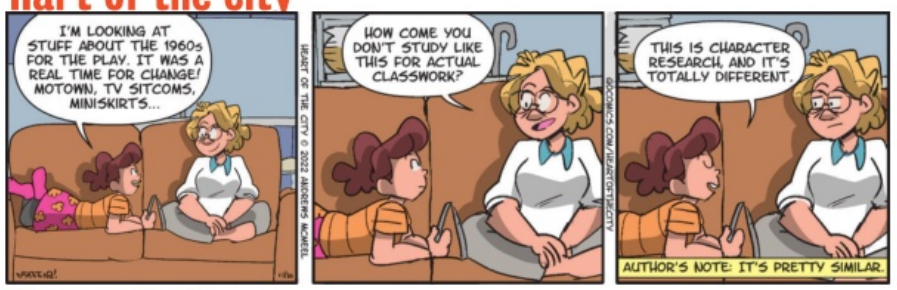
Bizarrotrip



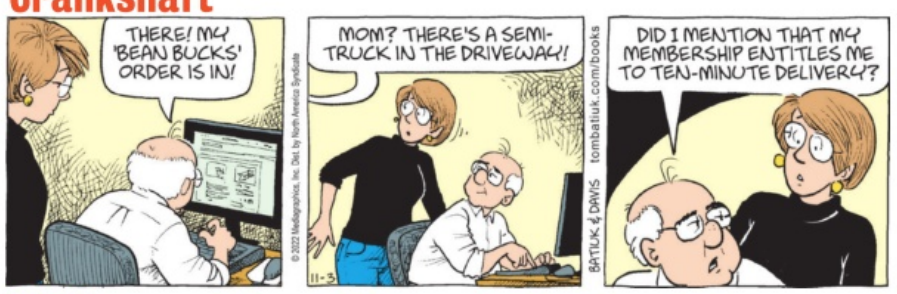
Diamond Lil

THERE'S A NEW DOLL OUT FOR CHRISTMAS
IT'S CALLED "SICKY RICKY, BOY ASTRONAUT"
WHAT'S IT DO?
YOU PULL HIS STRING AND HE LOSES HIS LAUNCH
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


I'M LOOKING AT STUFF ABOUT THE 1960s FOR THE PLAY. IT WAS A REAL TIME FOR CHANGE! MOTOWN, TV SITCOMS, MINISKIRTS...
HOW COME YOU DON'T STUDY LIKE THIS FOR ACTUAL CLASSWORK?
THIS IS CHARACTER RESEARCH, AND IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
AUTHOR'S NOTE: IT'S PRETTY SIMILAR.

Crankshaft


THERE! MY 'BEAN BUCKS' ORDER IS IN!
MOM? THERE'S A SEMI-TRUCK IN THE DRIVEWAY!
DID I MENTION THAT MY MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES ME TO TEN-MINUTE DELIVERY?
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may be happy. You may have some sort of energy which may increase your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying intellectual subjects. You may also plan for higher studies to groom your career. Students may hear good news in terms of competitive examinations.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, at the start of the day, you may be dull, but after late evening, you may control your negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With the help of these people, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before putting your signature.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, with the help of elders, you may have control over your indecisiveness. Your kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will convert into success in terms of a project. You may expect to get some incentives with your salary. Those related to dairy, water projects, grains, home maker art, and culture may do well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household items, which may improve your social status. You may likely hear some good news from one of your relatives.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be happy and blessed by the moon. You may feel healthy, which may reflect into your way of working. You may perform well in all the areas of your life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may be very good today. You may take some difficult decisions in your business in terms of growth.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today your vital power may slow down and old disease may reappear, which can make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligation. You may settle it out of the jury. Try to avoid making arguments on worthless topics. You may also plan for an overseas tour.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may take quick decisions, which may improve your management skills. This may give you benefits in the near future. You may expect some new sources of income which may boost your savings. With the help of your business partner, you may invest some capital in your business. Your bond with your spouse may be better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be busy on the work front, which can make you tired and unable to find proper time for a family get-together. You may be able to create an overseas network as well. You should be careful in terms of investments. Those in jobs may get promotions.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today messy situations are under control. Your destiny is likely to be with you in terms of gains in business. You may get some rewards for your hard work. It may be a good time to reinitiate postponed projects. You can expect peaceful travel. You may also plan to donate some amount to charity .

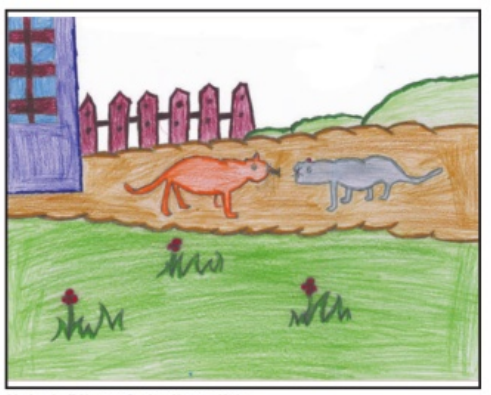
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your moon is not in a good position. You may have health issues. You may face losses in business or in investments. It is advised not to invest in business. Your gains may convert to losses. You are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid binge involved in controversies, otherwise it will pull you down negatively

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You are blessed by the moon today. You can expect to hear some good news in terms of your profession. Your domestic life is likely to be in full swings of joy. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics. Overexcitement may test your patience. You can take important decisions in real estate. Students will be focused on their studies.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of your professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery is likely to bring positive gains in the near future. You should be careful of your elders' health.

KIDZONE

Jasmine L, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School


Akshath, 7 Years, Podar Happy Kids

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
3+2×8 = 3+(1/2)×8
=(3×8)/2 = 24/2
=12

RIDDLER
Stall out, an ultimate frisbee term, others are used in baseball.

QUOTE UNCODE
What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered

BULL'S EYE
deer, devour, doer, dour, dove, drove, erode, OVERDUE, redo, reed, rode, roved, rude

FAST FIVE

P	E	R	R	Y
U	V	E	A	S
N	I	M	B	I
U	L	A	M	A
R	A	G	E	D

STRIKE OUT

S	U	D	D	E	N	■	A	M	I	D	S	T	■	■
R	■	N	■	N	E	S	T	A	■	E	■	S	■	■
O	■	C	■	E	R	N	E	S	■	A	■	D	■	■
C	A	S	A	■	T	O	D	■	N	E	E	D	■	■
S	T	A	C	K	■	I	■	L	A	C	T	O	■	■
■	R	■	C	E	N	T	A	U	R	■	A	■	■	■
T	O	N	A	L	■	C	■	Y	E	L	L	S	■	■
S	A	I	D	■	R	U	B	E	■	R	U	E	D	■
I	■	M	■	L	E	A	D	S	■	F	■	R	■	■
L	O	R	D	L	Y	■	O	E	D	E	M	A	■	■
N	■	E	■	E	L	A	N	D	■	R	■	U	■	■
E	N	V	O	Y	S	■	A	I	D	I	N	G	■	■

QUICK

B	O	R	Z	O	I	■	P	A	G	O	D	A	■	■
R	■	G	■	I	■	■	I	■	R	■	■	A	■	■
L	■	A	■	E	■	■	U	■	E	■	■	R	■	■
N	A	N	■	N	O	M	A	L	■	Y	■	E	■	■
V	O	I	C	E	S	■	A	P	P	A	L	S	■	■
A	■	O	■	N	■	T	■	■	P	■	T	■	■	■
A	S	■	R	■	U	■	E	■	■	■	■	E	■	■
H	■	S	L	A	Y	I	N	G	■	L	A	Y	■	■
B	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	A	■	K	■	■	■	■
L	U	C	K	■	L	E	A	P	Y	E	A	R	■	■
A	■	E	■	N	■	L	■	O	■	H	■	■	■	■
B	O	R	Z	O	I	■	P	A	G	O	D	A	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
E: divide into groups of four, identical arrows. In each group of four, each arrow moves 90 degrees clockwise. One arrow appears black in each group moving forward one place each time.

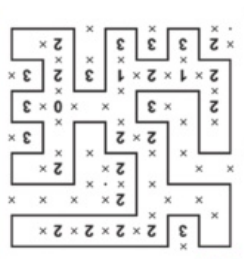
SUDOKU

9	4	8	5	3	1	6	7	2
6	2	1	9	8	7	3	5	4
3	7	5	6	4	2	1	8	9
7	6	4	3	5	9	2	1	8
8	3	2	4	1	6	7	9	5
5	1	3	7	2	8	9	4	6
2	8	9	1	6	4	5	3	7
1	9	6	8	7	5	4	2	3
4	5	7	2	9	3	8	6	1

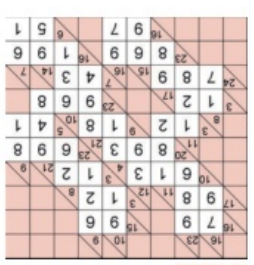
ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, Tl, Site, Bites, Sobolt, Obesity.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 − 2 + 9 + 2 = 14
Medium
7 + 3 x 1 + 5 = 15
Hard
4 / 2 x 7 x 4 = 56

LOOP



KAKURO



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RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

NHAI'S agenda to keep roads safe

National Highways Authority of India plans to identify, fix accident-prone stretches

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started to identify Accident Prone Stretches on National Highways. For this purpose, NHAI has provided enhanced powers to its field officers for road safety mitigation measures. The authority has also deputed a road safety officer at each Regional Office for the monitoring of the safety works.

"Between 2015-2018, around 4,002 blackspots were identified on the National Highways under NHAI. Short-term safety mitigation measures have been implemented for all these blackspots and work on the long-term safety mitigation measures have been completed on 2,704 blackspots. Safety mitigation measures on around 716 blackspots were implemented in FY 2021-22 alone. The remaining 1,298 are under various stages of implementation for the long-term safety mitigation measures," said an official.

Safety first

With millions of lives endangered worldwide, road traffic accidents rank alarmingly high in the recent trends of pressing social issues. An approximate 328 lives are lost daily, much of which could have been prevented with timely rescue and intervention. Despite the innumerable road safety campaigns and awareness drives, India still ranks first in the number of road accident deaths across 199 countries and accounts for almost 11 per cent of all accident-related deaths in the world. Despite global stagnancy and uncertainty owing to the pandemic and consequent lockdowns, road accidents have managed to claim 29,415 lives just between March and June, with an additional 51,970 casualties. Clearly, road safety continues to be a major developmental and public health concern around the globe.

Recognising road accidents as a leading cause of death in the country, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India has called for a joint effort between the state and central governments to facilitate the improvement of road and safety infrastructure and to reduce casualties.

"While the situation might appear rather grim, people need to come together as changemakers, now more than ever. We must all strive to do our part to ensure that we receive what we deserve - safer roads and safer communities, once and for all. To improve safety and reduce road crash casualties, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) has entrusted the Indian Road Safety Campaign (a non-profit organisation) to lead road safety activities aimed at upping grassroot level citizen involvement in road safety measures across the nation," said an official.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru City police say that it is high time road safety lessons are taught to school students. A senior police official said that children should be taught about rules and regulations from a very young age as this would help them to inculcate good road safety habits.

Bengaluru police have an interesting initiative called the Students Association for Road Safety (SARS). It came into existence in the year 1977 with an objective of involving students in regulation of traffic by giving them traffic training. Under this scheme, the traffic officers visit all the schools in their jurisdiction and meet the Headmaster/ Principal and enrol eligible students - preferably ones in High School.

"The students will be given training in drill, marching, traffic signals, and will be taken to important junctions in the area to regulate traffic. Students who are trained under this scheme will also regulate traffic in front of their own schools," said a police official.

Another senior police official said, "Rules like wearing helmets, stopping at traffic signals, and wearing seat belts are small things that everyone can follow."

-Prakash VL

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